

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 7 June 2005 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in the Fort Hood Officers Club, Building 5764.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present: LTG(Ret) Taylor, Chairman; CSM(R) Cayton, Vice Chairman; MG(Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member; Col(Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member; COL(Ret) Portmann; COL(Ret) Davis; COL(Ret) Somera; COL(Ret) Davis; LTC(Ret) Woodward; CW3(Ret) Hanger; CSM(Ret) Minosky, Member; 1SG(Ret) Stotts; 1SG(Ret) Fisher; USAF; 1SG(Ret) Miller; MSG(Ret) Hayner; MSG(Ret) Wood; SCPO(Ret) Lubasky, USN; and SFC(Ret) Evans-Quickley; and Mrs. Greathouse, Widow.

b. Members Absent: COL(Ret) Gauer.

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

4. The Chairman introduced, LTG Thomas F. Metz, Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood and also CSM William J. Gainey, Command Sergeant Major, III Corps and Fort Hood. COL Victoria Bruzese, Garrison Commander was also in attendance. LTG Metz thanked the Council for inviting him and his Sergeant Major to update the Council on the status of the Corps and other issues pertinent to the Retiree Community.

a. LTG Metz stated that with the current state of affairs, the Army is extremely busy worldwide. Although other branches of service are also supporting the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT), the Army is carrying the load. With the Army reorganization there is currently 33 Active Brigades which will plus up to 47 and have an end state of around 70+ Brigades. The rotation goal is that units will have 1 year at home station before returning to a combat area. LTG Metz stated that we can be extremely proud of all our Soldiers and the great job that they are doing on a daily basis. Iraq is making progress and working towards being able to build their own government and support their country.

b. LTG Metz talked about current re-enlistment and enlistments in the Army. Stated that re-enlistment numbers are strong, but enlistments are down. LTG Metz said that he is proud of the Institution of the Army that Retirees have built and influenced. Youth today do not have the influence of their parents to encourage their children to join up. In WWII with the country at 140 million, 9% of the population joined the war effort. During OEF/OIF with our country at 240 million plus, only .04% have enlisted. Must continue to encourage our youth that our freedom is a cause worth serving for in the military.

c. LTG Metz also addressed issues of interest in the Retirement Community. He is still diligently working the new hospital initiative. The new hospital needs to be modern outpatient facility more so than a bed patient hospital. Military Medical Community wrestling with tough issues – staff, funds, etc., want to ensure good and adequate services are kept. LTG Metz also thanked the Retirees for their community support. Because of the tremendous community support families have stayed and that has benefited the community and the families. Unlike the Gulf War, the Fort Hood hasn't flat lined with the current deployments.

d. CSM Gainey echoed the CG in that our Soldiers/ Airmen (all services) are doing an outstanding job. Working on Airmen being able to wear the Combat Patch. MSG(Ret) Wood, USAF, Ret., stated that the Air Force Security Association is working to get passed that Airmen will be able to wear the Combat Patch. The Chairman opened the forum for questions from the Retiree Council. CSM Gainey also talked about a recent Recruiter/Military Appreciation Night. Five Retirees were there and said that couldn't have done it with out them. The Retirees experiences have helped pave the way for the Army now.

e. CSM Gainey also wanted the Retiree Council to know that if a Retiree calls his office with questions or concerns, he will take call or will call back. His staff knows to take a message and ensure that he receives it.

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The Chairmen then opened the forum for the Retiree Council to ask questions of LTG Metz and CSM Gainey.

Q. MG(Ret) Meyer asked what is the attitude of Congress, are they supportive?

A. LTG Metz stated that Congress is supportive because many members on pertinent committees have visited. There will be negative press, but Congress will support the war efforts.

Q. 1SG(Ret) Miller asked if the Draft would be brought back?

A. LTG Metz said that he didn't think so and hoped not. Said that once Soldiers have enlisted we have good numbers in keeping them. CSM Gainey stated that he hoped not also. Soldiers of different services are tight and working well together. During the draft, services didn't have that "jointness."

Q. COL(Ret) Oliver asked if Tac Helicopters were being used with every convoy?

A. LTG Metz said that there were too many convoys running for a Tac Helicopter to be with everyone. However, the Air Force helped with communications for Medevac so that soldiers were within 1 hour of Level III Medical care. Soldiers are equipped with body armor has also helped. Have lost limbs, but kept alive. CSM Gainey echoed that medical technology has come a long way. He visited a Fort Riley Soldier on Friday who had face blown off. Doctors were able to rebuild his face and he was making excellent progress.

Q. COL(Ret) Somera asked when do we think our Troops will come back?

A. LTG Metz answered not sure how long that will take, but perhaps in 2006 will see a decline in the need for as many Soldiers in Iraq.

5. The Chairman thanked LTG Metz and CSM Gainey for coming and providing the Council with important information and updates. He invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they desired. The Chairman then continued with the rest of the meeting. COL Bruzese stayed for part of the meeting and then excused herself. She reminded the Council members of the Town Hall meeting Thursday evening and if they had any concerns to please call in.

6. The first order of business was discussion of the Guidelines for Selection of the Honorary Retiree. The Chairman asked that copies of the proposed guidelines be passed out to all members and then opened the issue for discussion. During open forum, concerns were raised reference whether or not the selectee should be 10 years retired (or if less would be acceptable) and whether or not in possession of a wearable uniform should be included as one of the criteria. After the open discussion, it was concluded that these proposed guidelines are just guidelines and the Council could select someone who did not meet all the criteria if there were substantiated reasons and the Council approved. The motion was moved, seconded, and carried by the council to approve the guidelines as proposed. A Memorandum For Record will be drafted and the approved guidelines will be added to the Fort Hood Retiree Council Fact Sheet to ensure continuity of selection criteria for future Honorary Retiree Selectees. Council members were asked to use the guidelines as part of the selection process for candidates for this year and provide nominees to Ms. Waller prior to the next meeting.

7. Second order of business: Select a nominee for the Chief of Staff Retiree Council. The Chairman opened the issue for discussion. During open discussion, the issue was brought up reference extension or re-nomination of current CSA Retiree Council members. Some members of the CSA Retiree Council, in the

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past, have been asked to extend. COL(Ret) Portmann (current CSA Retiree Council Member), as of date, had not been asked to extend; however, his term does not end until June 2006. MSG(Ret) Hayner (Former CSA Retiree Council Member) stated that in the past under certain circumstances extensions have been made, but as a rule, the term is four years and re-nomination for another term is prohibited by AR 600-8-7 (Retirement Services Program). The Chairman asked if any one on the Council would like to be considered to serve the CSA Retiree Council. 1SG(Ret) Eugene Miller said that if nominated he would gladly serve. The motion was made, seconded and carried by the Council to select 1SG(Ret) Miller as a nominee from Fort Hood for the CSA Retiree Council

8 CSM(Ret) Cayton reported on AAFES. CSM(Ret) Cayton stated that he was going to take CSM Gainey up on his offer to assist in problems and concerns of Retirees. CSM(Ret) Cayton had 3 pet rocks that he was having difficulty getting the PX to address. 1) Wheelchair space in Clothing Aisles; 2) Restoration of the sitting area in the main entrance of the PX (has been eliminated by vendor setups) 3) Male and Female bathrooms in the PX, are never clean. 1SG(Ret) Stotts volunteered his wheel chair to check the distance between aisles.

9. COL(Ret) Portmann updated the council on the CSA Retiree Council Report, published 22 April 2005. Forty-five issues were submitted to the CSA Retiree Council (to include the issue reference "Equity of Retiree Health Care" from Fort Hood). Health Care along with Communications and Education were the primary areas of concern for the Council. COL(Ret) Portmann gave an brief synopsis of the process and expressed his views that being a member of the CSA Retiree Council has been a very educational and positive experience and would be willing to extend on the council. COL(Ret) Portmann had two topics from the Consumer Health Committee Meeting: health are going electronic so health records can be easily shared by different locations/doctors to ultimately provide better care for the patient. Also, MEDDAC will be having a change of Command 7 July. COL Sutton (previously stationed at Fort Hood) will be taking command

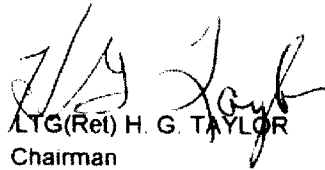
10. LTC(Ret) Woodward reported on Volunteer/Club Activities. LTC(Ret) Woodward stated that Family Advocacy is looking for volunteers to be Sexual Assault Advocates. Please contact Volunteer Services if interested. Bricks are still available at the Fisher House (\$25.00 each). The Caremobile issue has been taken care of from the last meeting and COL Gauer is certified and has been volunteering. Also, LTC(Ret) Woodward stated that he would have the Chamber Letters for Door Prizes for Retiree Appreciation Days. He will bring to next meeting, but if needed before then to please contact him. Club Activities: O'Club is now charging \$175.00 (less amount of food purchased) to private organizations who use the club. The contract will be ending for the current Club Credit Card System – more to follow on new contract. Also, DMWR sent out 1500 surveys to Retirees on MWR Leisure needs. If you have received please complete and return.

11. CW3(Ret) Hanger gave an update on commissary activities. Mr. Hanger said that due to the date change of the meeting that they Commissary Council meeting was during the Retiree Council meeting. The Chairman excused Mr. Hanger to attend the Commissary Council meeting.

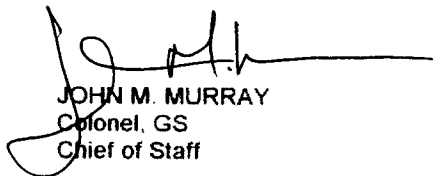
12. The Chairman opened up the council for an open forum. Council members expressed that the meeting was very productive and informative. Mrs. Greathouse said that COL Gillman will take over BAAMC, San Antonio.

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13. The Chairman informed the council that the next meeting is scheduled for 8 September 2005, FHOC, Executive Room, and adjourned the meeting at 1320 hours.


LTG(Ret) H. G. TAYLOR
Chairman

Approved/Disapproved


JOHN M. MURRAY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff